

# The Legislature of Rockland County



**JAY HOOD, JR.**

*Legislator – District 3*

Chair, Public Safety Committee

**Members Present:**

Leg. J.Hood, Jr., Chair  
Leg. T. Earl, Vice Chair  
Leg. C. Carey  
Leg. E. Day  
Leg. A. Paul  
Leg. A. Wieder  
Leg. A. Wolfe

**Others Present:**

Leg. D. Jobson  
R. McKay, Esq.  
D. Fried  
Leg. P. Soskin  
Sheriff Falco  
L. Toole  
B. Atkins  
K. Sincerbox

MINUTES  
***PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE***  
TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 2012  
5:15 PM

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADOPTION OF MINUTES, MEETING OF MAY 30, 2012

**MOTION TO ADOPT:  
EARL/DAY**

**UNAN**

1. REF. #5327 - APPROPRIATION OF FEDERAL FORFEITURE FUNDS REQUESTED BY THE OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES, EQUIPMENT, K9 CARE, AND POLICE TRAINING (OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF) (\$243,650)  
**(LOUIS FALCO, SHERIFF)**

**MOTION TO APPROVE:  
DAY/WOLFE**

**UNAN  
TRANSFER TO B&F 6/12/12**

**ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. HOOD, JR., EARL, CAREY, DAY, PAUL, WIEDER, WOLFE, JOBSON**

2. REF. #5327 - APPROPRIATION OF FEDERAL FORFEITURE FUNDS REQUESTED BY THE SHERIFF TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR JAIL INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES, EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING (SHERIFF-CORRECTIONAL FACILITY) (\$275,000)  
**(LOUIS FALCO, SHERIFF)**

**MOTION TO APPROVE:  
DAY/WOLFE**

**UNAN  
TRANSFER TO B&F 6/12/12**

**ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. HOOD, JR., EARL, CAREY, DAY, PAUL, WIEDER, WOLFE, JOBSON**

3. REF. #5327 - APPROPRIATION OF FEDERAL FORFEITURE FUNDS TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR EQUIPMENT AND SOFTWARE FOR THE DIVISIONS OF SHERIFF PATROL (ALL UNITS), CIVIL AND CORRECTIONS (SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT) (\$155,876)  
**(LOUIS FALCO, SHERIFF)**

**MOTION TO APPROVE:  
DAY/PAUL**

**UNAN  
TRANSFER TO B&F 6/12/12**

**ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. HOOD, JR., EARL, CAREY, DAY, PAUL, WIEDER, WOLFE, JOBSON**

4. REF. #6704 - APPROPRIATION OF FEDERAL FORFEITURE FUNDS REQUESTED BY THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE AND THE OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF TO PURCHASE SMART BOARD EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES FOR THE SHERIFF'S R.E.A.C.T. UNIT THAT PROVIDES SERVICES ON CASES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY (DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE AND THE OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF) (\$9,000)  
**(THOMAS ZUGIBE, DISTRICT ATTORNEY)**

**MOTION TO APPROVE:  
WOLFE/EARL**

**UNAN  
TRANSFER TO B&F 6/12/12**

**ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. HOOD, JR., EARL, CAREY, DAY, PAUL, WIEDER, WOLFE, JOBSON**

5. REF. #7300 - *DISCUSSION ITEM:* STATE COMMISSION OF CORRECTION MANDATING NEW JOBS IN THE ROCKLAND COUNTY JAIL  
**(HON. PHILIP SOSKIN, LEGISLATURE)**

Sheriff Falco explained that the State Commission of Corrections overall mission is to make sure that correction facilities including jails and prisons across New York State are safe, stable and humane. There has been an increase of over \$15 million in overtime over the last five years at the jail. The staff shortage, an increase in suicide watches and budget constraints have contributed to this overtime.

The State Commission has mandated that the county add 14 correction officers and 2 supervisors to the staff at the RC jail. The commission is requiring the additional workers following a detailed analysis of jail operations, everything from the current number of staff and inmates to the design of the facility, the number of staff days off, and the ratio of officers to inmates.

Sheriff Falco stated the jail typically holds 200 inmates per day. In 2010, 3,083 inmates were admitted and 612 (20%) were placed under a suicide watch. In 2011, 3,219 were admitted and 848 (26%) were admitted under a suicide watch. All inmates must fill out a psychiatric assessment form and based on their answers, they can be placed under a suicide watch. Sheriff Falco said each person under a watch must be guarded around the clock until being evaluated by a psychiatrist (which can take hours or days depending upon being admitted at night or on a week-end/holiday). On-duty correction officers cannot guard those under a watch and perform their regular duties thereby creating overtime situations.

Sheriff Falco also stated the jail will continue with its plan to use tele-conferencing to connect inmates with off-site psychiatrists to allow evaluations more quickly. He plans to use asset forfeiture money to pay for this rather than wait for funding from the county due to the fiscal crisis.

Leg. Soskin and Chair Hood, Jr. thanked Sheriff Falco for his presentation and the amount of information he was able to share with this Committee which was very informative. Sheriff Falco was appreciative for the opportunity to address the Committee members.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN: 6:05 PM**  
**DAY/EARL**

**UNAN**

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